

## ABSTRACT

Methods, systems, and computer program products for improving installation of software suites by including topological information pertaining to the run-time environment of products in the suite. A model and framework are described, where the objects of the data model include one or more preferred topologies. A template may be provided for each topology, with which an installer enters data values for customizing this topology. The approach disclosed herein enables more efficient and flexible software installation than is available in the prior art, by adapting the installation process for a particular topology of a destination run-time environment. Using the disclosed techniques, a solution builder is able for the first time to enforce or recommend the topology which is most efficient for this end solution. (For example, the solution builder may specify the types of machines which comprise a preferred run-time environment for the software products in the suite.)

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